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This informal newsletter is intended to keep IUGG Member National Committees informed about the activities of the IUGG Associations, and actions of the IUGG Secretariat. Past issues are posted on the IUGG website (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>). Please forward this message to those who will benefit from the information. Your comments are welcome.

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1. Scientific meetings selected for IUGG support in 2012

IUGG co-sponsors symposia and workshops appropriate to our disciplines of study. IUGG allocated US\$30,000 to assist meetings in 2012 and especially to support the participation of young scientists and scientists from developing countries. Officers of the Union, Associations and Union Commissions propose meetings to receive these awards. For 2012, IUGG will support the following meetings (the IUGG Association or the Union Commission which endorsed the meetings is indicated in brackets):

- International summer school/workshop in glaciology, McCarthy, USA, 10-20 June (IACS)
- Workshop on measurement and uncertainty assessment of glacier mass balance, Tarfala, Sweden, 9-11 July (IACS)
- Workshop on Vertical Datum Unification, Bogotá, Colombia, 10-14 December (IAG)
- 21st Electromagnetic Induction Workshop, Darwin, Australia, 25-31 July (IAGA)
- 2012 International EMSEV meeting, Shizuoka, Japan, 30 September-4 October (IAGA)
- 3rd STAHY International Workshop, Tunis, Tunisia, 1-2 October (IAHS)
- Symposium “Completion of the IAHS decade on Prediction in Ungauged Basins”, Delft, The Netherlands, 23-25 October (IAHS)
- International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation, Leipzig, Germany, 28 July-3 August (IAMAS)
- International Radiation Symposium (IRS) 2012, Berlin, Germany, 6-10 August (IAMAS)
- ICDM Workshop 2012 “Dynamics and Predictability of High-impact weather and Climate Events”, Kunming, China, 6-9 August (IAMAS)
- Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets, Boulder, CO, USA, 25-28 June (IAMAS)

- 33rd General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission and Young Seismologists Training Course, Moscow, Russia, 19-24 August (IASPEI)
- 9th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission 2012, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17-20 September (IASPEI)
- IUGG GRC Conference “Extreme Natural Hazards and Their Impacts”, Orange, CA, USA, 11-14 December (IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability)
- 39th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, Mysore, India, 14-22 July (IAGA, IAMAS)

2. Corrections and updates to the IUGG Yearbook

Corrections and updates to the information contained in the IUGG Yearbook (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/yearbooks/yearbook2011.pdf>) are now being finalized in preparation for the 2012 Yearbook. Please contact the IUGG Secretariat urgently in the case of any additions and corrections [Simone.Oswald@kit.edu].

3. ICSU CODATA celebrated its 45th Anniversary

The year 2011 marks an important milestone in the decades-long history of the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). On Sunday, 30 October 2011, CODATA celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a high-level scientific meeting themed “Data-Intensive Science and Discovery – CODATA 45 years on”. This event was held in the Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.



At the CODATA meeting



Y.T. Lee, ICSU President



G. McBean, ICSU President-elect



*C. Bai, President of
Chinese Academy of Sciences*



*A. Ismail-Zadeh,
IUGG Secretary General*



*H. Guo, CODATA President &
CEODE Director General
(Photos from the CEODE website)*

Throughout the latter half of the XXth century, and now into the XXIst century, CODATA has played a leading role in promoting improved scientific and technical data management and use for the benefit of science and society in general. The meeting recognized CODATA’s accomplished past, and provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the current state and future of discovery

and innovation in the age of data-intensive science. Over 100 experts and senior scientific authorities from CODATA, its national members and task groups, national academies of sciences, international scientific organizations, as well as selected attendees from the IRDR Conference, which took place from 31 October to 2 November, attended the event. ICSU President Y.T. Lee, ICSU President-elect G. McBean, and the President of the International Geographical Union (IGU) R. Abler participated in the meeting.

IUGG Secretary General A. Ismail-Zadeh was invited to take part in the panel session focused on the CODATA Strategic Plan over the next five years. He emphasized the importance of CODATA tasks groups in developing data science. As CODATA does not have centralized data resources, a closer cooperation between CODATA and the ICSU World Data System is required. IUGG could contribute to the CODATA activities by linking IUGG and Union Associations activities in the area (e.g., Union Commission on Data and Information, IAG program “Global Geodetic Observing System”, IASPEI Commission “International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks (FDSN)”, IAGA Intermagnet, etc). IUGG appoints Union Liaison officers to CODATA; at present Alexei Gvishiani (Russia) and Mark Parsons (USA) are the IUGG Liaisons. During the last several years IUGG developed a fruitful cooperation with CODATA: IUGG and CODATA initiated two ICSU resolutions on digital divide and the International Polar Year (IPY) data preservation. We were successful in getting an ICSU grant on the development of Polar Information Commons. IUGG hopes that the cooperation with CODATA will strengthen in future.

More information on the event: <http://www.codata.org/CODATA%2045%20Agenda.html>



The CODATA's 45th Birthday Cake

4. Report on the IRDR Conference on Disaster Risk

The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is a new ICSU ten-year program enthusiastically supported by IUGG. The first IRDR Conference was organized in Beijing, China, and was conceived to respond to two fundamental questions: (i) why, despite advances in the natural and social science of hazards and disasters, do losses continue to increase; and (ii) to what extent is the world-wide growth in disaster losses a symptom and indicator of unsustainable development? In addition to these questions the Conference focused on the most important problems related to the reduction of disaster risk. This event was focused on the characterization of hazards, vulnerability, and risk; understanding decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts; and reducing risk and curbing losses through knowledge-based actions. It stressed the importance of developing

resilient societies through disaster risk reduction, based on the guidance provided by the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The key outcome of the Conference was the 2011 Beijing Declaration for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, which called for commitments to integration across disciplines; advanced research on natural, social, engineering, and technology aspects of disaster risk; collaboration; global standardization of open source information, disaster loss data etc; raising of awareness of decision makers and the public; a holistic approach in natural hazards and disaster risk education; and funding allocation to address the urgent need of applied integrated research on disaster risk.

The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Conference kicked off in Beijing on 31 October with an opening ceremony featuring addresses from leading members of the scientific community. The speakers stressed the importance of disaster risk research, while recognizing the serious shortcomings in current approaches. “It should no longer be acceptable for people to lose their lives from disasters, because they live in places experts knew to be disaster-prone in the first place,” emphasized Yuan Tseh Lee, Nobel Prize Winner and ICSU President. Lee told delegates from some 40 countries that IRDR is “without question“ one of the most important initiatives in ICSU’s upcoming strategic plan. Chair of the IRDR Scientific Committee Gordon McBean led the opening ceremony to commence the three-day conference, themed “Disaster Risk: Integrating Science and Practice”. McBean is ICSU President-elect, and he served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and on the IUGG Bureau (1987-1995). The Opening Ceremony saw talks from Han Qide, Chair of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST); Heide Hackmann, Executive Director of the International Social Science Council (ISSC); and Margareta Wahlström, the U.N. Secretary General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, who delivered a message from Geneva via a pre-recorded video.



The rostrum of the IRDR Conference



At the IRDR Conference
(Photos from the CEODE website)

Several distinguished experts delivered keynote talks at the Conference: Yoshiaki Kawata (Japan) spoke about the reconstruction plan after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami; Randolph Kent (UK) about emerging risks; John Handmer (Australia) about the link between hazards and politics; Huadong Guo (China) about recent progress of disaster risk research and mitigation in China; Wadid Erian (Egypt) about challenges and solutions in drought hazards and disasters; Mme Michaëlle Jean (Canada, UNESCO Special Envoy for Haiti and Former Governor General of Canada) about reducing Haiti’s vulnerability and the role of science; Guoxiong Wu (China, Ordinary Member of ICSU Executive Board and Immediate Past President of IAMAS) about formation of the disastrous Asian summer monsoon onset vortex; Susan Cutter (USA, IRDR Vice Chair and AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Vice Chair) about the characterization of hazards, vulnerability and risk; Allan Lavell (Costa Rica) about understanding decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts, and Andrew Maskrey (Switzerland) about reducing risk and curbing

losses through knowledge-based actions. IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh spoke at the Conference's special session "Barriers and Bridges". His speech was related to barriers in extreme geohazards research and bridges between basic science and preventive disaster management.

The conference is a major step forward in the IRDR program's goal to bring together researchers, policy makers, and other stakeholders from diverse geographic, scientific, and institutional backgrounds. The program was founded on the idea that a new approach to disaster reduction was necessary in the face of increasing disaster losses. Co-sponsored by ICSU, ISSC, and the U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, IRDR was launched in 2010 with the ambition to complete its mission in 10 years. On 1 November Gordon McBean, one of the founders of IRDR and the first Chair of its Scientific Committee, retired from IRDR, and Sálvano Briceño (Venezuela) took the position of the Chair.

More information on the Conference: <http://www.irdrinternational.org/irdr-conference-2011>.

5. IUGG Secretary General visited the Chinese National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics

The Chinese National Committee for IUGG (CNC-IUGG) was pleased to welcome IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh to visit the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), where CNC-IUGG is located. Ismail-Zadeh visited IAP together with ICSU President-Elect Gordon McBean (a distinguished Canadian meteorologist and a former Member of the IUGG Bureau) on 4 November 2011 after their attendance at the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Conference held in Beijing (31 October - 2 November 2011). McBean and Ismail-Zadeh gave talks at an IAP seminar before the meeting. McBean spoke about the environmental hazards, climate change and importance of early warning system, and Ismail-Zadeh discussed data assimilation techniques and applications.



*During the meeting. Left panel (from left): J. Zhu, J. Qin, Y. Liang, G. Wu and Z. Xie.
Right panel (from left): J. Li, A. Ismail-Zadeh, G. McBean, and Y. Lin.*

The meeting was chaired by Guoxiong Wu, Vice-President of CNC-IUGG, IAMAS Immediate Past President, and an Ordinary Member of the ICSU Executive Board. Yingnan Liang, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Affairs, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), also attended the meeting. Every four years, IAP sends a big delegation of atmospheric scientists and graduate students to attend an IUGG General Assembly. CAST is also active in searching funding to support Chinese scientists' involvement in IUGG. Both CAST and IAP would continue to work with IUGG to promote earth sciences in China and the international community. CNC-IUGG Secretary General, Jianping Li, presented Ismail-Zadeh the Newsletters of

CNC-IUGG and a Chinese version of the IUGG E-Journals (2009-2011). It is an impressive collection of data on IUGG and the Union Associations translated into Chinese.

Ismail-Zadeh highly recognized CNC-IUGG's efforts in promoting IUGG's profile in China. He also expressed thanks to CAST and the host institute IAP for their invaluable support to CNC-IUGG. Ismail-Zadeh stressed IUGG's support to integrated science education, and he encouraged IAP and CNC-IUGG to initiate science education activities related to integrated research. He particularly mentioned that China can play an active role in advanced summer schools in the south-eastern Asian region on topics of a common interest not only to atmospheric scientists, but also to hydrologists, oceanographers and even solid earth physicists (e.g. data assimilation, climate and natural hazards research), so that young scientists and students can be more broadly educated and can improve their global understanding of complex natural processes.

Received from Jenny Lin, on behalf of the Chinese National Committee for IUGG

6. IUGG-related meetings occurring during December 2011 – February 2012

A calendar of meetings of interest to IUGG disciplines (especially those organized by IUGG Associations) is posted on the IUGG web site (<http://www.IUGG.org/calendar>). Specific information about these meetings can be found there. Individual Associations also list more meetings on their web sites according to their disciplines.

December 2011

- 5-9, AGU, San Francisco, CA, USA, Fall Meeting
- 6-9, IAHS, Penang, Malaysia, 3rd International Conference on Managing Rivers in the 21st Century

January 2012

- 22-26, American Meteorological Society, New Orleans, USA, 92nd Annual Meeting

February 2012

- 20-24, IAVCEI, Auckland, New Zealand, IAGA-3: IAVCEI-IAS 4th International Maar Conference: a multidisciplinary congress on monogenetic volcanism
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Note: Contributions to IUGG E-Journal are welcome from members of the IUGG family. Please send your contributions to Alik Ismail-Zadeh by e-mail (insert in Subject line: *contribution to E-Journal*). The contributions will be reviewed and may be shortened by the Editor.